

REAMRKS

With respect to the issues raised by the Examiner regarding the drawings, it appears that many of the comments made with respect to the drawings are not that relevant to the subject matter of the current invention. The current invention is the use of a linking means, comprising a ball and socket, wherein the linking means tapers to flat attachments upon the tongue, and the vamp, to secure these two components together. Actually, the Examiner's comments regarding the vamp covering the big toe, would appear to be not that relevant, so claim 18 has been amended to describe that the vamp may cover at least the big toe of the wearer. Secondly, the comment regarding the hook and loop material, where the tongue is removably attachable to the vamp, as can be seen in FIGS. 18 and 19, what is shown therein is the snap 50, although the specification states, on page 15, that it may also be a hook and loop material for attaching these two components together. It would seem that this comment, in the specification, should provide support for a claim such as claim 20.

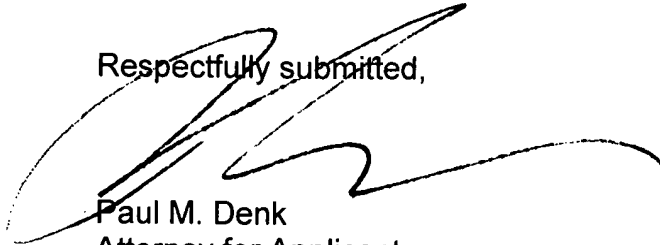
With respect to the comment regarding the tongue conforming to the wearers foot, as set forth in claim 21, page 16 does describe that the tongue is made of resilient or stretchable material, and will stretch to provide a tight fit of the shoe on the foot of the wearer. It would appear that this provides adequate support for what is defined in claim 21.

Since the filing of the Terminal Disclaimer eliminates the Applicants' own earlier parent patent as prior art, and this prior patent is linked as Continuation-in-part to this application, it would appear the only prior art available is that which is cited by the Examiner as to Benjamin patent. But, Benjamin just does not show or describe the features as set forth in the claims of this particular application.

The Examiner's further review of this application would be appreciated. If the Examiner really feels that the drawings need to be revised, notwithstanding

the comments made herein, let the undersign know and some type of drawing changes can be submitted.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul M. Denk', written over the typed name.

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